

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 4  
By Cooper J

A RESOLUTION to commend Anne B. Pope for honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor those inimitable public servants who during their respective tenures in office have performed their appointed duties with remarkable dexterity and unprecedented commitment, and whose professionalism and competence will serve as a benchmark for future public officials; and

WHEREAS, Commerce and Insurance Commissioner Anne B. Pope is one such distinguished public servant who has given unselfishly of herself, her time, and her remarkable talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, Beginning her meritorious service as a member of Governor Sundquist's administration in 1999, Ms. Pope has distinguished herself as a highly respected leader in her field and an effective public servant; her transition to federal service leaves a void in state government that will not easily be filled; and

WHEREAS, A native of Kingsport and a graduate of Vanderbilt University and of the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University, Commissioner Pope has extensive experience in the private sector as an attorney and businesswoman; and

WHEREAS, As chief regulator of the state's insurance industry and the Tennessee State Fire Marshal, Commissioner Pope has led the Department of Commerce and Insurance to several notable milestones, including enhanced fire safety legislation and strengthened financial oversight of more than 27 professions affecting the life, safety and welfare of every Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, At the onset of her illustrious tenure as Commissioner, Ms. Pope led the drafting of a crucial insurance disaster response plan, while also bolstering industry enforcement and fraud detection capabilities; and

WHEREAS, In October 2002, Commissioner Pope's foresight and resolve was evidenced once more at the grand opening of the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy, a state-of-the-art, dual curriculum training facility that provides critical fire, codes enforcement and homeland security training and whose development, construction, and initial operation Ms. Pope oversaw; and

WHEREAS, Indicative of her unflagging concern for the public welfare, Commissioner Pope championed the department's implementation of a comprehensive statewide school inspection program to ensure a more fire-safe environment for students throughout Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Under the strong and capable hand of Anne B. Pope, the Tennessee Bomb and Arson Section received the prestigious Outstanding Accomplishment Award in 2001 from the International Association of Arson Investigators; and

WHEREAS, The Emergency Communication Board, directed in their efforts by Commissioner Pope, has been noted as a national leader and model in the deployment of wireless 9-1-1 service, with more carriers providing enhanced 9-1-1 service in more Tennessee counties than in any other state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her valuable work as Commissioner, Ms. Pope has served as a member of Governor Sundquist's 1996 Commission on Practical Government, his 1997 Council on Excellence for Higher Education, as the Executive Director for the Tennessee Film

Entertainment and Music Commission, and as a member of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (co-chairing the Functional Regulation working group), the Board of Directors for the Bank of Tennessee, the Arts Council of Greater Kingsport (Past-President), the Board of Directors for the Johnson City Chamber of Commerce and the 1997 Business Hall of Fame for Junior Achievement (Chair); and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Pope has worked faithfully with the Senate Commerce, Labor and Agriculture Committee; she has earned the approbation and admiration of Senator Jerry Cooper, the committee's members and the General Assembly as a whole, impressing upon them her talents as a equitable and effectual administrator; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure as Commissioner, Anne B. Pope has been a prominent figure on Capitol Hill; she is a woman whose intellect and energy are seldom equaled and, without question, she will be greatly missed; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Pope will be long remembered as an advocate and crusader for good, responsive government and the concerns of all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Pope's many qualities have proven to be exceedingly beneficial to the people of Tennessee; her meritorious service was noted by President Bush and recompensed with a nomination for an appointment as Federal Co-Chairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission in Washington, D.C., an appraisal of her expertise endorsed by the United States Senate, as they confirmed her appointment on November 20, 2002; and

WHEREAS, It is highly appropriate that the friends and colleagues of this outstanding public servant should honor her and recognize her numerous accomplishments and contributions to our great state upon the occasion of her departure from state government; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Anne B. Pope for her

immeasurable service to Tennessee, and honor her for her distinguished service as Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we congratulate Commissioner Pope on her appointment by President George W. Bush to service as the Federal Co-Chairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.